

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please replace paragraph 45 with the following replacement paragraph:

[45] Although the present invention has been fully described in conjunction with the certain embodiments thereof with reference to the accompanying drawings, it is to be understood that various changes and modifications may be apparent to those skilled in the art. For example, embodiments of the present invention have been described in connection with a desktop computer. As noted, the present invention can be implemented in any electronic device now or later developed. Such electronic devices include, but not limited to, computers, data storage devices, printers, plotters, workstations, cash registers, inventory control devices, audio/visual equipment, telecommunications and telephony equipment; photocopiers, networking devices including servers, routers, bridges and the like, etc. Thus, the present invention is not limited by application. As another example, port security covers can be configured to lockingly attach to more than one wall or surface of an electronic device depending on the location of the ports to be protected. For example, in one embodiment, the port security cover extends around to lockingly attach to surfaces of multiple panels of an electronic device. As another example, the port security cover according to embodiments of the present invention, such as those described above with reference to Figures 3-6, are comprised of a two-piece housing. It should be appreciated, however, that the port security cover may comprise a housing formed of greater than or less than two interlocking pieces. For example, in certain alternative embodiments, the port security cover has a multi-part or unibody construction. In a unibody embodiment, apertures 206 can be formed along one or more edges or corners of the housing such that the perimeter of the apertures is defined by the housing and surfaces of the electronics device to which the housing is attached. In alternative unibody embodiments, the housing can be constructed to permit the temporary expansion of the apertures to facilitate the passage of connectors 112 to mate with ports 106. Such expansion can be provided by hinged doors, retractable panels and the like. In such embodiments the unauthorized expansion of such apertures is prohibited by, for example, providing a latch or release mechanism accessible from the interior of the port control apparatus. As another example, in the embodiments described above with reference to Figures 3-6 in which the housing is formed of a base 302 and cover 304, the two housing elements can be completely separated from each other. In alternative embodiments, the

housing cover may be unibody in construction with the housing base and cover connected via a hinged, creased or flexible joint, for example providing a clam-shell-type device.

Regardless of the number of parts, a housing cover and base may be interlocked according to the mechanisms described herein. Further, the housing cover may also comprise a key activated lock 517, such as illustrated in FIG 4. This key activated lock may be for securing the housing cover to at least one of the housing base and the electronic device. In a further alternative embodiment, the port security apparatus is comprises of a locking access panel through which the protected ports 106 can be accessed, and the cables 110 can be passed through apertures 206. Such changes and modifications are to be understood as included within the scope of the present invention as defined by the appended claims, unless they depart therefrom.